



Immature Ivory Gull, Burnham Harbor, Chicago, 30 December 1991. (Robert Hughes photo)

for larger gulls." Indeed, I watched as the Ivory Gull won most times when involved in food skirmishes with other gulls. The Ivory Gull also drove other gulls away from its roost spot, preferring to remain

alone. This bird flew as gracefully as a tern and yet as strongly as a falcon.

The Ivory Gull is rarely seen outside of the Arctic (Terres, 1991). The species moves south when the water freezes and seeks areas where ice floes mix with open water (Bent, 1947). Perhaps the Siberian-like weather that froze out Canada and most of the northern tier of the states in early November last winter hastened this Ivory Gull southward to the Great Lakes region. An Ivory Gull seen near Milwaukee one month prior to the Chicago record could have been the same bird.

It is interesting to note that eight records of Ivory Gulls within the last four winters have come from Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Illinois (American Birds, 1989, 90, 91, 92). Also, four Ivory Gulls were seen on or near Lake Michigan during the winter

prior to and after the Waukegan sighting in 1949. ■

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BIRD FINDING GUIDE

Saw-Whet Owls in Allerton Park

by Robert Chapel

On a cool, cloudy mid-January morning in 1988, I hiked through Lost Garden at the south side of Allerton Park, four miles west of Monticello in central Illinois. Roaming through a cluster of small red cedars, I recalled having seen a Northern Saw-whet Owl, (*Aegolius acadicus*), in a similar

habitat in Indiana.

I wondered. Was it possible that I could find the seven-inch tall, yellow-eyed owl here in central Illinois?

Then I noticed whitewash and small owl pellets. Excited, I began an intense search for the owl. For many minutes, I scanned the evergreens, bend-

ing low and peering into spots where the owl might be roosting, but with no luck.

Then as I stood up, I found myself staring straight into the eyes of a Saw-whet Owl five feet above my head.

The Northern Saw-whet Owl is one of the most sought-after birds in Illinois, where it is